

Amulets bearing oldest-known biblical inscriptions found

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP) — The oldest biblical inscriptions ever found have been deciphered by Israeli archaeologists. The inscriptions are on 2,600-year-old silver "charms" unearthed seven years ago, according to the Israeli Museum.

According to archaeologist Gabriel Barkay, the inscriptions he discovered in a Jerusalem burial cave predate the Dead Sea Scrolls by about 400 years. The Dead Sea Scrolls had been the oldest known biblical texts. The silver charms date from the 7th century B.C., when descendants of King David ruled the Jerusalem area.

The texts are scratched on two pieces of silver that were rolled like scrolls and probably worn as amulets. They bear the priestly blessing found in the Book of Numbers. One charm has a full 15-word version, while a smaller piece has a 10 word abridged version that combined two verses.

The writing on the amulets is a form that disappeared after Jews were expelled from Jerusalem in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians.

Cuban's trail leads to pastorate, not priesthood

By Breena Kent

At New Orleans Seminary commencement exercises in May, professor Joe Trull was viewing the events, when a Hispanic man, having received his diploma, looked Trull "in the eye and gave a nod of recognition" as he walked off the stage.

At the time, the associate professor of ethics was puzzled. He did not recognize the name of the Miami extension center graduate, although he remembered the face from somewhere.

"Dr. Trull, do you remember me?" said the man in broken English, as he approached Trull after the ceremony.

His name was Nelson Vento when Trull knew him. They met in 1981 when a plea was sent to churches by the Home Mission Board to place refugees from Cuba. First Church, El Paso, Texas, of which Trull was pastor at the time, responded to the plea, and Vento and his family moved into the accommodations the church had provided for them.

"He knew no English and had no job," said Trull. Now, several years later, the man's name is Nelson Avila, not Vento; he has a seminary degree; and he is the pastor of a Baptist mission in the Miami area. Avila's story is an interesting one.

As a young boy of Catholic background in Cuba, Avila dreamed of being a priest. At age 18, he entered the Catholic seminary.

Disappointed in the seminary, Avila abandoned his studies and became a youth leader and catechism teacher.

In 1968, Avila was accused of conspiring against the government and sentenced to six years in prison. Because of good conduct, however, he was dismissed after two years, got married, and finished his high school studies.

He sought to quench his thirst for peace and happiness by making money, and his new dream was to gain his fortune in the United States.

In 1980, Avila, his family, and his brother's family boarded a boat for Miami. In the U.S. immigration office; however, his name was mistakenly written "Vento" in-

stead of Avila. He soon found himself jobless, in a strange country, with a strange name and \$100 in his pocket, living in a motel that cost \$60 a week.

For the first time in many years, Avila lifted his heart toward God. "Lord," he said in Spanish, "Look at my situation. Is this why you brought me here?"

A few hours later, a friend arrived with the news that the U.S. government was relocating Cubans. To apply, however, Avila had to state his religion. Rebellious against the Catholic church, he remembered that his sister was Baptist, and Avila claimed her religion as his own.

His family was sponsored by Trull's church and they moved to El Paso. There Avila said he accepted Christ, but torn with the struggle of 30 years of Catholic tradition, he began to doubt his decision and refused baptism.

Once more, Avila began attending Catholic Bible studies. Afraid that his new Baptist friends who had provided him with a job, a home, and love would discover he had "betrayed" them, he and his family packed what little they had and moved to Miami.

"But the more I studied the Bible and prayed," said Avila in Spanish, "the more my eyes were opened . . . until at last I was free of the traditions that I had lived under for so many years." Avila made his decision to follow Christ public and joined a Baptist church.

Once again, Avila entered seminary, only this time it was an extension center of New Orleans Seminary. At last his childhood dreams were realized, only in a different light — instead of a Catholic priest, he became a pastor of a small Baptist mission.

"Nelson has a beautiful testimony," said Trull, "and every time he tells it, he speaks of El Paso and the people there. Now we can see the fruit of the seeds planted . . . Now we can see the end of the story."

In January of 1986, Avila was granted U.S. citizenship, and at last his name is again Avila, not Vento.

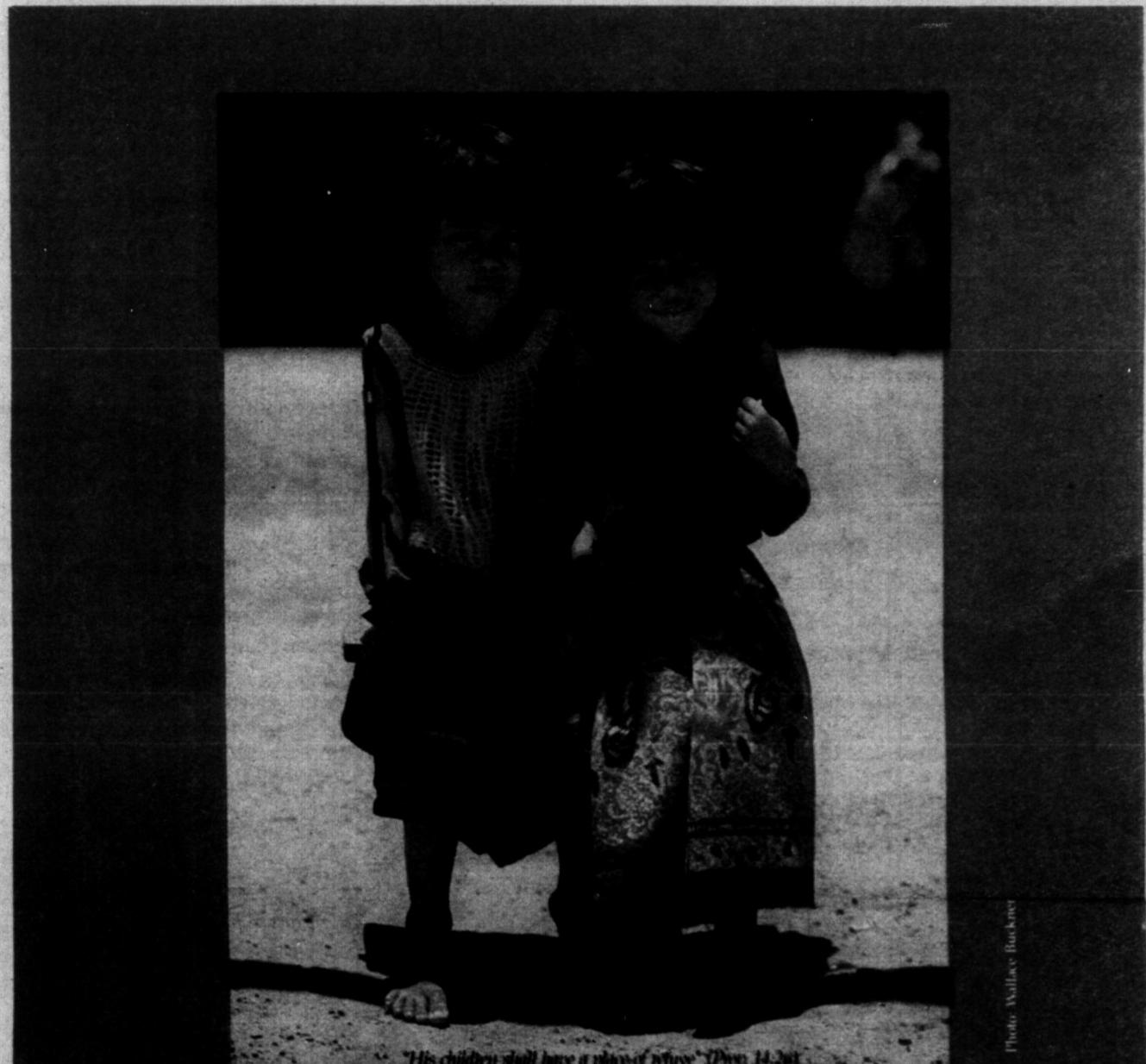
Breena Kent writes for New Orleans Seminary.

The Baptist Record

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Published Since 1877

Thursday, July 31, 1986



"His children shall have a place of refuge" (Prov. 14:20)

Photo: Wallace Buckner

Give a child a chance to see dreams come true.

Sponsor a Refugee Family



For information contact:
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Home Mission Board, SBC
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Atlanta, GA 30367-5601
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PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT!
CELEBRATE LANGUAGE MISSIONS DAY August 10, 1986

Xiao-Ping of China chooses Carey

HATTIESBURG — Factors such as location, faculty, cost, and major requirements all play heavily upon a college-entering student's mind when making that decision of "which college?"

Xiao-Ping, (pronounced Show as in shower, Ping as in ping-pong) is a native of Nanking, China, and a graduate student at William Carey College. She made her college decision as a result of events in the distant past.

Lillian Weidenhammer, a retired William Carey chemistry professor, also served as a missionary in China from 1946-1950 teaching a Christian

university. During Weidenhammer's assignment, she taught Xiao-Ping's father, Zi-An Su, who majored in chemistry.

Zi-An Su later became an internationally known chemist, specializing in pine products similar to those found in South Mississippi. Presently he and his wife are conducting research at the Institute for Chemical Processing and Utilization of Forest Products in Nanking, China.

As a result of Zi-An Su's previous contact with Weidenhammer, Xiao-Ping made her decision for Carey College. When Xiao-Ping completed her bachelor of arts in vocal performance

at the Nanking College of Fine Arts, she decided to come to the United States for graduate study.

Xiao-Ping began her study of English "on the plane" to America. In describing the atmosphere at William Carey, Xiao-Ping said the students and faculty have been warm and helpful, although some professors lecture too fast.

Xiao-Ping plans to write her master's thesis on Samuel Barber, an American composer. After her completion of studies, she plans to begin a career of teaching and performing . . . a career that will allow Xiao-Ping to return often to the United States.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Prayer for peace

Probably there is no more fervent hope throughout the world than that the world would live in peace. We Christians hold the realization of this hope in our hands, for we know the Prince of Peace.

That is not to say that we can convince the atheistic nations to give up any ideas of war simply because we want them to, for they have no knowledge of the Prince of Peace. But we can introduce him to those nations, and peace will be possible according to our effectiveness. And, of course, our effectiveness depends on our willingness to be led.

So prayer is the key, both in our effectiveness as witnesses and in our efforts to be catalysts in promoting world peace.

Aug. 3 is a Day of Prayer for World Peace throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. That is the starting place. We are not going to get anywhere in an effort to promote the Prince of Peace without getting in touch with the Prince himself.

Conditions throughout the world are less than peaceful. There is no all-out war going on anywhere; but there is

tension, there is unrest, there is upheaval, and there are small-scale skirmishes in many areas.

Iran and Iraq are still at war, though not much is heard of it. Russia still occupies Afghanistan. The Sandinistas are fighting the contras in Nicaragua, and there is civil war in El Salvador. South Africa is a powder keg.

Not all of those nations are atheistic by any means. There is some semblance of religious thought in all of them. Only Russia could be called an atheistic nation, and Christianity is strong even there. Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq, of course, are Moslem.

A religious leader in South Africa, Desmond Tutu, won the Nobel peace prize in 1984, yet that country is far from peaceful.

We can't know how our efforts at peacemaking are to fit into the world scheme. All we know is that we must try. We must find a way to do what we can. And the overarching need, the beginning point, is prayer. Only through prayer can we find a way to make a contribution.

We mustn't lend our efforts toward

establishing world peace only in order that we will be rewarded, but the Master has told us that there will be compensation for such efforts. As his words are recorded in Matt. 5:9, he said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Surely that is the main element of our hope — that we would be called the sons of God. Then in James 5:16 the writer says, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

So the mandate is before us. We can accomplish much through our prayers, and we are indeed sons of God. So we must pray for world peace. The world has a right to expect this of us. And we have no right to withhold our prayers for the world.

Aug. 3 is the day set aside for a concentrated effort in prayer for peace. It should not be the only time in which we lift up our prayers for that purpose.

This annual emphasis on prayer for world peace is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.



"I will give peace."

(1 Chronicles 22:9)

Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace August 3, 1986

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Baptist youth night

Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., will be the inspirational speaker for Mississippi Baptist Youth Night Aug. 8. The meeting will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Jackson Coliseum.

This is always the meeting with the largest attendance that Mississippi

Baptists sponsor. This year should be no exception. Jackson is a very popular speaker, and there should be 10,000 young people in the audience.

Jackson is an evangelist as well as a pastor. Lives will be changed that night.

Guest opinion . . .

Pornography commission study

By Larry Braifoot

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The most comprehensive review of pornography in United States history has triggered lively debate about the social consequences of pornography and the legitimacy of controlling its production and distribution.

The Attorney General's Commission on Pornography completed its year-long inquiry and released its two-volume final report in early July. The commission was composed of 11 individuals from widely diverse backgrounds. They focused heavily on law enforcement and social concerns both in their public hearings and in their final report.

The executive director was a Southern Baptist layman, Alan E. Sears, Assistant U.S. attorney from Louisville, Ky. In its first public meeting on June 19, 1985, the commission heard testimony from the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commissions' director of family and special moral concerns, Harry N. Hollis Jr. Also, the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta passed a resolution opposing pornography and commanding the appointment of the commission.

The work of the commission was conducted in the midst of public

scrutiny seldom focused on such government commissions. Supporters have strongly praised the report while critics have vigorously condemned it. The American Civil Liberties Union monitored the task force's progress and objected to numerous aspects of its work; and representatives of the pornography industry particularly have been critical, with charges of censorship being loud and long.

This air of controversy took some attention away from a primary objective of the commission: To turn the floodlight of truth on the production and distribution of hard core pornographic materials and to uncover evidence linking these materials to sexual acts of violence and abuse against women and children. Public hearings and collected evidence brought clearly into perspective a burgeoning multi-billion dollar industry which ruthlessly exploits women and children and attracts customers by appealing increasingly to bizarre and violent portrayals of explicitly kinky sexual behavior.

The commission found that most states already have laws which, if enforced, are adequate to control the sale of obscene materials. The Supreme Court has held that material

determined to be obscene is not protected as free speech by the First Amendment. If the material, taken as a whole, presents sexually explicit acts designed to appeal primarily to a "prurient" or excessive interest in sex, its sale and distribution may be legally prohibited. The hue and cry of many news media columnists and editorial writers following the release of the commission's final report has tended to ignore the fact that hard core pornography has no constitutional protection and no moral defense.

A spinoff of the work of the commission has been the discontinuation of the sale of many of the so-called "soft porn" magazines such as *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. These have not been judged as subject to the legal prohibitions against hard core pornography. Efforts at removing them have subsequently proceeded along other lines. During the first five months of 1986, five major chains and three convenience store chains with a total of 15,000 outlets dropped magazines such as *Playboy* and *Penthouse* from their shelves. Southland Corporation, parent company of 7-11, was the largest and received the most publicity for its actions, but chain stores like

Eckerd, Super-X and Albertson's had already dropped these magazines, following the lead of Tom Thumb Stores taken in October, 1983. The commission did not claim its work accomplished this clean-up; but Southland issued a statement at the time of its announcement a number of months ago at least implying that the commission's work had contributed to its policy decision.

Playboy, which sells about 60 percent of its magazines by subscriptions, will not likely be curtailed as effectively as will *Penthouse*, which sells about 96 percent of its magazines through over-the-counter outlets. But *Playboy*'s finances are suffering. The continued decline in sales is bad news for *Playboy*, which has already sustained losses of more than \$6 million during this fiscal year, due in part to its failed casino venture in Atlantic City and to the closing of its clubs in New York and Chicago. Its London casino operation, which ran afoul of rigid British regulations, had already failed with drastic economic consequences to the parent company.

It seems clear that at least some of the chain stores were influenced as much by their belief that the market

is declining for the "soft porn" such as *Playboy* and *Penthouse* as by other concerns. Many now believe that the ready availability of hard core pornography has pre-empted the demand for the milder versions.

The commission's final report serves as a reminder that the problems posed by pornography are not merely legal problems. Responsible citizens action can issue in the conscientious enforcement of laws which clearly apply to the hard core materials legally deemed to be personally degrading and socially harmful.

In the years since the last major governmental study of pornography, carried out in 1970 when Richard Nixon was president, changes in sexual behavior and dramatic increases in both the volume and excesses of hard core pornography provided ample justification for this commission's work. It remains to be seen whether or not Americans will accept its basic challenge and stamp out hard core pornography.

Larry Braifoot is General Counsel and Director of Christian Citizenship Development, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention.

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Home Mission Board appoints five Mississippians

The administrative committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has named five Mississippi natives as missionaries to serve in Missouri, Massachusetts, and Nevada.

Bob and Cassandra Loggins of New Orleans were appointed black church relations missionaries to St. Louis, Mo.; Brad Roderick of New Orleans will be a church planter apprentice in Westfield, Mass.; and Ken and Peggy Shaw of Kansas City, Mo., will be church planter in Spring Creek, Nevada.

Loggins, 30, originally from Winona, is currently interim pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, instructor of Greek at Union Baptist

Theological Seminary, and associate minister of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, all in New Orleans.

Loggins was pastor of Mount Bethel Baptist, Petal, from 1980-85, and is a former assistant pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, Hattiesburg. From 1978-83 he was district counselor for Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind in Hattiesburg.

Loggins is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Loggins, the former Cassandra Jordan of Jackson, has been nursing supervisor for the New Orleans Health Department since 1983. From 1981-83 she was public health nurse for the Mississippi State Board of Health

in Hattiesburg. While in Hattiesburg, she was also employed by Forrest General Hospital and Methodist Hospital. Mrs. Loggins is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in nursing.

The Logginses have one son, Robert, 5.

Brad Roderick, 23, formerly of Jackson, is a preschool teacher for Preschool Education, New Orleans. In 1985 he was a member of PRAXIS, a ten-week church starting practicum project sponsored jointly by the Home Mission Board and Southwestern Seminary. From 1981-84 Roderick was assistant minister of youth, Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson.

(Continued on page 4)



Bob and Cassandra Loggins



Ken and Peggy Shaw

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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Hospital breaks ground for Medical Arts Plaza

Formal groundbreaking ceremonies were held July 23, for the new Medical Arts Plaza located at the site of the old Baptist Hospital in Jackson. Members of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center board of trustees, city officials, and representatives of the healthcare and business profession participated in the ceremonies.

Guest speakers were:

Ed Hock, president, Mediplex Medical Building Corporation; Dale Danks, mayor of Jackson; Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Paul G. Moak, president, board of trustees, MBMC.

Medical Arts Plaza, approximately 100,000 square feet, will be connected to the hospital by a tunnel and will provide two floors of outpatient facilities and four floors of medical office space with a parking structure adjacent to the building.

When occupied, the building will house approximately 60 physicians in addition to a full service outpatient surgery center, diagnostic radiology services, cardiac rehabilitation/physical therapy/sports medicine clinic and collection laboratory.

The developer is Mediplex Medical Building Corporation, a subsidiary of The Mediplex Group, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avon Products, Inc.

Construction and permanent financing for the project has been arranged by Trustmark National Bank of Jackson in participation with Deposit Guaranty National Bank.

The general contractor is Campbell Construction Company of Jackson.

Occupancy of the building is scheduled for the fall of 1987.



Paul Pryor, executive director of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, stands beside an architect's rendering of the new Medical Arts Plaza at the ground breaking ceremony Wednesday, July 23.

Basketball players use skills in Zambia witness

By Franklin Kilpatrick

LUSAKA, Zambia — Six Southern Baptist basketball players, most from Mississippi, used their athletic skills in June as a door-opener to share their faith in Jesus Christ.

The young men flew to this southern African nation to help Lonnie Turner, a Southern Baptist missionary working with students. Turner, from Kentucky, arranged their visits as a way to reach students with the gospel and to improve the quality of basketball in Zambia.

Throughout June the volunteers played practice games with local teams and taught fundamentals during clinics with youth, especially those attending secondary schools and the University of Zambia. They spent weekends in Sunday School classes, college Bible studies, and local church events.

"The first time we practiced with (players from) the different schools we told the kids who we were and a little about our relationship with Christ," said Kelley Williams, a member of Northminster Church, Jackson, Miss. "Many of them were

disinterested and did not want to listen."

Things had changed by the end of a week, however. "By Friday they were much more open to what we had to say about Christ," Williams said. "After a week of basketball practices we had earned their respect. Seven of the guys asked if they could go to church with us on Sunday."

A senior at the University of Zambia who teaches physical education at the International School of Lusaka was impressed with the team's self-discipline. "They carry themselves well and know what they're talking about," said Monde Muyangwa. "Their standards are high, and they make you want to work harder."

Besides Williams, a junior at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., others who participated in the program were: Forrest Speed, also a junior at Vanderbilt, from Jackson, Miss.; Barry McNair, a senior at the University of Mississippi in University, from Jackson; Brian White, a re-

(Continued on page 4)

Volunteers needed to witness overseas

RICHMOND, Va. — Southern Baptists are being invited to help spread the gospel in one of the world's most responsive countries through an effort coordinated by the Foreign Mission Board this fall.

Missionaries in the Philippines are asking for up to 30 people to help them with crusades in the greater Manila area Oct. 29 through Nov. 11, when they hope to see the groundwork laid for 10 new churches.

Also, missionaries in Chile, Brazil, and England are asking for Southern Baptists to help them in special evangelism crusades planned this fall.

In England 25 lay people are needed Sept. 10-23. In Brazil, 24 people are needed Oct. 2-14 and 25

people Nov. 13-25. In Chile 16 people are needed Oct. 15-28.

Working with local churches, volunteers will form pastor-led teams and go with local Baptists to witness in homes and/or businesses and schools. For about a week they will share their testimonies in the morning and afternoon and participate in evening services. Other days will be spent in travel, orientation and some recreation.

Men and women, and youths in 11th grade or older, are eligible to participate. Volunteers must pay their own expenses.

Interested people should contact the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at (804) 353-0151 and ask for Barbara Epps in the volunteer enlistment department.

Evangelism prof tells Baptists:

"Don't write off people in multi-family housing"

By Leisa A. Hammett

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Churches must grasp the urgent need to minister in multi-family housing areas and be willing to alter traditional church and evangelism methods to reach apartment, trailer park, and condo dwellers, Southern Baptist leaders were told during a multi-family housing conference.

Delos Miles, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Seminary here, said in order to evangelize large urban centers, Southern Baptists must take the gospel message to people in multi-family housing.

David Beal, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board national consultant for multi-family housing, added that builders and real estate brokers predict phenomenal growth in multi-family dwellings by the year 2000.

"We are sitting on an explosive situation . . . Southern Baptists have a mission field at their doorstep," said Beal. "Yet some churches tend to write-off these people."

Explained Miles, "America is becoming more urban . . . We've got a new cultural milieu, and Southern Baptists don't know what to do about it."

Traditional Southern Baptist methods of evangelism — Sunday schools and revivals — are not working like they once did, said Miles. And Southern Baptists will have to change their methods to reach multi-family housing residents, both Miles and Beal emphasized.

Miles prescribed "point-of-need evangelism" — reaching multi-family housing residents through their needs versus confrontational

evangelism approaches. "Our methods of evangelism have become too methodical and mechanistic," said Miles. "There's a great need for more spontaneity and creativity."

Ministries in multi-housing areas have been launched in Lee County. See stories on Page 6.

Beal advocated relational evangelism that provides creative opportunities. When Christians form relationships with non-Christians, he said, they might be rejected the first time they present the gospel message, but they will have second and third opportunities.

The barrier to traditional Baptist approaches may be sociological, he added, explaining, "We are a rural people seeking to minister to an urban citizenship." Only 40 percent of America's churches are located among 70 percent of the population, he noted.

Despite Baptists' heritage and location of churches, Southern Baptists can minister successfully to multi-family housing residents, Beal continued. But successful ministry may not mean bringing them into church: "We do not have to destroy what we have, but build something different to reach people. If we are willing to change, we can reach some people.

"Multi-family housing residents might not be interested in the traditional church, but they might be interested in a Bible study."

"Experiencing worship outside the church," he continued, "is the wave

of the future . . . Taking the church to multi-family housing communities is a risk, but it reaches people we could not otherwise."

Beal explained that indigenous satellites — groups of a congregation that meet outside of the church — should not be clones of the sponsoring church. "If multi-family housing residents will not go to the big church, they will not go to its little brother. We have to gear a new church to those people," he insisted.

Churches must reflect the lifestyles, races, social and economic levels of their communities, he added, noting, "If they do not, they are on their way down . . . and a lot our churches do not reflect their communities."

He stressed the importance of churches being prepared for ministry. A home missionary for more than 20 years, he has seen "humanity" creep in when churches were not prepared to accept the product of their ministry — people who may dress, live, and worship differently.

Claudia Hill, a former US-2 missionary in Kansas City, Mo., said few residents will slam the door in a Christian's face when they are handed a box of cookies. Hill, who now works as a minister to apartments, recommends Christians interested in forming relationships with apartment dwellers use a "welcome wagon" approach.

Hill learns the names of new residents from apartment managers she has befriended. She also offers residents babysitting services, aerobics classes and Bible studies.

Leisa Hammett writes for the HMB.

Outreach Bible Study — new path for the Good News of Jesus Christ

By Keith Williams

Outreach Bible Study is a new path for the Good News of Jesus Christ. Its focus is on the largest single group of Americans — the unchurched. The curriculum is evangelistic in nature. It is not designed for those who are already Christians or for those looking for a "deeper life" Bible study. It is Bible study for the unsaved.

Starting at any time, the Outreach Bible Study groups are sponsored by the Sunday School. These groups are not to take the place of the reaching responsibility of the Sunday School, but to approach this responsibility in another way.

The groups are designed to be short term in nature — only eight weeks in length. The goal for these groups are that their members will become involved in the ongoing Sunday School program of the church.

A special curriculum has been written for both pupils and teachers. They will be available on the October-November-December undated literature order form. The materials, for

adult and youth groups, will be titled "Invitation To Adult Bible Study" and "Invitation To Youth Bible Study," respectively. A separate teacher's quarterly is available.

If childcare is provided during the Outreach Bible Study groups, the Convention Uniform Series of dated literature is suggested. This will assure a quality teaching experience for both preschoolers and children.

An administrative help is also available. HOW TO CONDUCT OUTREACH BIBLE STUDY, Harry M. Piland, Compiler, may be purchased from the Baptist Book Store. It gives help in organization and training of leaders, locating and enlisting participants, planning the sessions and follow-through after sessions.

A live BTN broadcast to introduce Outreach Bible Study to Southern Baptist Churches will be on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 11 a.m. All churches and associations with BTN will be able to view this program. Viewing sites have been set up for individuals which

do not have access to BTN at the following locations:

First churches of Greenville, Gulfport, Hazlehurst, Kosciusko, Picayune, Cleveland, Columbia, and Escatawpa. And at the Associational officers of Pike, Lauderdale, Hinds/Madison, and Jones Counties.

Reservations for this event are necessary at one of the listed viewing sites. Contact the state Sunday School office to make a reservation.

Nationwide, it is the goal for 10,000 churches to begin one or more Outreach Bible Study Groups. In Mississippi, the goal is to involve 450 churches in starting at least one group.

Outreach Bible Study is one way of confronting men, women and Youth with the claims of Jesus Christ. It is a way to speak a godly word to an ungodly world.

Keith Williams is a consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Home Board appoints five

(Continued from page 3)

In Westfield, Roderick will be assigned to start new churches under the Home Mission Board's church planter apprentice program, a two year assignment for recent seminary graduates who work under an experienced supervisor in starting new churches.

Roderick is a graduate of Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Shaw, 27, a native of Winston County, is employed by Kelly Services in Kansas City.

Shaw is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, and Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Shaw of Louisville.

Mrs. Shaw, formerly Peggy Ishee of Laurel, is a legal secretary in Kansas City. In 1977, she was a Home Mission Board summer missionary to California. She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Shaws have one daughter, Kelle Patrice, 4.

Basketball players witness

(Continued from page 3)

cent graduate of Belhaven College in Jackson, from Marietta, Ga.; Monty Harmon, a junior at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., from Warrensburg, Mo.; and Bob Mills, a recent graduate of the University of

Mississippi, from Russellville, Ala.

"We are opening some doors with the Zambian people," McNair said after two weeks in Zambia. "Through basketball we hope to reach people that normally would not be reached."

Lee Co. launches ministries

(Continued from page 6)

Wildwood; Bissel; Calvary, Tupelo; Doty Chapel, Shannon; and New Hope, Plantersville. Just over a year ago, none of the projects now going were in existence.

"It's not a snowball," says Missions Director Smith, "but we feel we have

a responsibility in reaching Bold Mission Thrust to make a commitment to reach these people in apartments and mobile homes."

Adds Welford, "anyone can do it, any size town. The key is people seeing the need to help other people come to know Christ."

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Four hundred people attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in east Beirut

in mid-June. To mark the milestone, the seminary published a booklet telling its history in English and Arabic.

THANK YOU, MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



. . . for your prayer support
(without the power of God our task is hopeless)

. . . for your financial support
(without needed resources our task would go undone)

We join you in giving praise to God and in commitment to telling the world about Christ.



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WMU offers training for church WMU leaders

Leadership training for newly-elected church WMU leaders will be offered by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, Aug. 11-16, at Camp Garaywa, Clinton.

Conferences on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. The morning will feature methods conferences for all age-level leaders, experienced and unexperienced, as well as a conference for Baptist Women members. A conference for Centennial Chairman will also be offered.

The afternoon will feature specialty conferences, such as Preview of Mission Study Books, Recognizing Your Spiritual Gifts, Witnessing Women, How to Plan a Missions Prayer Retreat, How to Use WMU Products, Enlistment Ideas, Ministering to Missionaries and MKs, and many more.

Night conferences will be offered Monday and Tuesday, beginning at 6:30 with a general session. Methods conferences are scheduled from 7-9 p.m.

An overnight WMU Houseparty will begin with a light lunch at noon on Friday and conclude with lunch Saturday, Aug. 15-16.

The same methods conferences will be offered as those during the day on Monday through Thursday. Likewise, the same specialty conferences will be offered. In addition, there will be missionary speakers, morning watch, and a group of conferences dealing with such areas as Prayer in the Life of the Christian Woman, Avoiding Spiritual Burnout, and How to Help the Single Parent Family.

Rives to teach at Gulfshore: preschool leaders

The preschool and children's work weekend at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Sept. 5-6, will be a "Reach/Teach" Retreat, with Elsie Rives as featured speaker.

Miss Rives is supervisor of the children's program section of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Children's conference leaders will be Beth Taylor, Ann Tonks, Eugene Chamberlain, and Tom McMinn, all of the Sunday School Board.

Preschool conference leaders will be Ann Liles, Sunday School Board; Judy Hicks, Alta Woods Church, Jackson; Betty Jo Hall, First Church, Madison; and Al Foy of Hattiesburg. The retreat begins with the evening meal on Friday and closes with lunch on Saturday. Registration will begin at 2 p.m., Friday.

For reservations, write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571. There will be no childcare for this weekend retreat.



Cost for the Houseparty is \$17 per person and pre-registration is necessary. Make reservations through the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Cost for the Monday through Thursday day conferences is \$4, which includes lunch and insurance. There is no charge for the Monday and Tuesday night conferences and no pre-registration is necessary for the day or night conferences, Aug. 11-14.

Participants should attend only one day or one night or the overnight conference, since conferences will be repeated at each session.

Baptist Book Store representatives will have WMU materials and books related to the conferences available for purchase at all sessions.

Pastoral evangelism meet slated for Ridgecrest

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, will be a guest speaker at a conference to help pastors strengthen their abilities as evangelists will be held Sept. 15-18 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.

Conference topics include helps for rural and urban pastors; evangelism with single adults, ethnics and

Homecomings

Rock Bluff, Rt. 4, Morton: Aug. 3; 10:45 a.m.; dinner served in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; revival services, Aug. 4-8, 7:30 p.m.

East Union, Pike Association: homecoming, Aug. 3, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m. with covered-dish lunch, afternoon service, 1:15 p.m., no night service; revival begins 11, Sunday; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Millard Purl, Summit, evangelist; Billy Ray Simmons, Progress, music; Dale Wilson, pastor.

Big Springs (Lincoln): Aug. 3; Frank Leggett, former pastor, speaker; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing, featuring home talent; Randy Farmer, pastor.

women; the Sunday school and evangelism and growing an evangelistic church. Other sessions will be offered to help pastors strengthen their family life and devotional life.

A deposit of \$45 per person should be mailed to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.

"Their Future Is in Our Hands" theme for kindergarten clinic

"Their Future Is in Our Hands" is the theme for an area kindergarten/day care clinic, Aug. 12 at First Church, Starkville.

The clinic, which is from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., will include a series of special interest sessions from which participants can choose four.

The sessions and their leaders are Make it and Take it, Judy Kirk; Assessing Your Child, Betty Kline; Alphabet Fun, Leahne Lightsey; Group Time, Thelma Riley; Bible

Story Games, Ray Evette; Directors, Patsy Wilson; Music, Movement, and Fingerplays, Lida Stark; and Babies, Creepers, and Toddlers (a two-hour session), Kaye Keeton.

Shirley Oglesby, conference director, notes that registration is necessary and must be received no later than Aug. 5. A \$10 registration fee covers the cost of lunch and materials. To register, write Julius Thompson, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Tiak O'Khata retreat planned for couples

Ken Jordan, marriage enrichment consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and former Mississippi pastor, will lead a Marriage Enrichment Retreat at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville, Nov. 14-15.

The retreat will begin at 3 p.m. on Friday afternoon and close at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Couples who commit themselves for the retreat are expected to be present for the entire retreat. The cost is \$75 per couple which covers room and three meals. Twenty-five dollars is to be paid upon registration and \$50 is due by Nov. 5. Registration will be limited.

Couples desiring to attend may make their reservation by writing J. Clark Hensley, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Checks should be made payable to Family Ministry, Church Training Department.

Village alumni to meet at India Nunnery campus

The Alumni Reunion Association of The Baptist Children's Village will convene in its bi-annual session in Powell Chapel on The India Nunnery Campus on Saturday, Aug. 9.

All former residents and staff members of Mississippi Baptist Orphanage or The Baptist Children's Village are cordially invited.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in Powell Chapel. The program will begin at 10 a.m.

All alumni and their families will be guests of Village staff and children at a luncheon to be served in Hester Activities Building at noon.

For details, contact, Chrystelle Thames at 922-2242.

MC to offer new degree

A new master of liberal studies degree has been initiated at Mississippi College for those individuals who are interested in education beyond the baccalaureate, but who do not wish to pursue a traditional specialized graduate or professional degree.

The new program is a non-thesis degree intended to be broad and diversified in its scope to allow participants flexibility in acquiring advanced learning in several different fields. The degree is not intended for teachers wishing to earn higher certification.

Of the 36-semester hours required for the degree, 15 hours must be completed in humanities and fine arts courses, 15 hours in social science or communication courses, and six hours will be elective. No more than 12 hours can be taken in any one department or field of study.

Persons desiring additional information concerning the new degree program should contact the Graduate School, Box 4183, Mississippi College Clinton, Miss., or call 925-3225.

The horn of plenty is the one the guy behind you has on his car — Monta Crane is Sunshine Magazine

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.

\$4,500,000

HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Church Loan Collateralized Bonds

SERIES B

Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Interest on the bonds will be payable semi-annually. The bonds will be offered with maturity dates varying from six months to fifteen years and the interest rate will vary from 9 per cent to 11 per cent depending upon the maturity date as set forth in the Prospectus.

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained by calling or writing:

CITIZENS AND SOUTHERN SECURITIES CORPORATION
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404/897-3200 Ext. 3520

Please send me a copy of the Prospectus.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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Lee Co. launches apartment ministries

Suppose you held a Bible study and nobody came.

That is exactly what happened a couple of weeks ago when a layman from First Church, Tupelo, came to the Parkway Terrace Apartments to lead an adult Bible study in the complex's recreation room.

T. K. Moffatt, the layman, and Bart Latner, minister of education at the church who had recruited Moffatt, had visited in the complex, had mailed invitations, and had visited again. "We had some promises," says Moffatt, who had visited in the 110 unit complex the previous evening, getting soaked in a summer thunderstorm in the process.

But by 7:20 on Tuesday evening, no one had showed up for the 7 p.m. study.

However, the spirits of the leaders weren't as damp as their clothes had gotten the night before. "We might have to take it slower," says Moffatt. "Sit down and get to know them," he

says. Latner suggests that perhaps work with the children should start before work with the adults.

It is clear that no results on the first attempt will not sway this ministry. Such is the case for about a dozen ministries which have begun in Lee County in the past year.

At least 12 churches are involved in some type of outreach ministry in the area which was not going on a year ago. These range from outreach Bible studies to Backyard Bible Clubs to Big A clubs.

The greatest amount of work is in Big A clubs, according to Tim Welford, a two year appointee of the Home Mission Board, jointly sponsored by Lee County Baptists and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Welford's title is director of apartment/mobile home ministries. And his job for the two year project which began last October is to focus on helping churches begin ministries to people living in multi-family dwellings.

Director of missions for Lee County Association, Bill Smith, says that of the 60,000 population of the county, one third are in multi-family dwellings.

Keith Gann, pastor of Sherman Church, and a member of the missions committee, says that when his church did an enlargement campaign

Big A Club materials are available through any Baptist Book Store.

a couple of years ago, "we came to the conclusion that we were going to reach the children even if we weren't going to reach the parents."

Sherman Church has children's worship service for school age kids and that for the others, "some adults whose own children are grown are sitting with these," says Gann.

Gann says that three years ago he was told that multi-family dwellers cannot be reached. He says that there has been a process of leadership

education to get people to stop forcing others to show up at the church steps.

"The best way to get them where we are," says Gann, "is to go where they are and bring them to us."

This is what Welford calls "taking the church to the people."

Gann adds "What we see in the apartments is an intensified graphic picture of what the whole society is becoming... Children are getting lost in the rush."

And the blessings come to those who work, too. Sandy Fields, whose husband Larry has been pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and has just become pastor of Central Church of Bearden, Knoxville, Tenn., is an Acteens leader.

After visiting home missionary Mildred McWhorter in Houston, Tex., "the girls said 'We've got to do more.' We'd heard about Big A and felt very led to get started."

After some frustration at finding an available place, Tim Welford phoned to offer a complex where the manage-

ment was amenable (most are, says Welford).

Mrs. Fields and co-leader Sue Jarvis say the teenaged girls "really caught a vision" and met consistently through the winter months with the children. Mrs. Jarvis' daughter, Leslie, 17, just returned from serving as a summer Sojourner (like summer missions for high school students). As a Big A Club volunteer "it's helped prepare me for this summer," where she served with Miss McWhorter's inner city mission operations, doing anything from visiting in the neighborhoods to bagging bread. (Other Acteens leading the Big A Club are Kathy Chase, Carmen Fulgham, Judy West, Michelle Sarratt, Lanna Childress, Beka Tutor, and leader Cynthia Colburn.

Lee County churches involved in some type of mission outreach include: First, Tupelo; First, Plantersville; First, Saltillo; Priceville; Skyline; First, Shannon;

(Continued on page 4)



Jim Jeffreys, pastor of Wildwood Church, and his wife, Louise, are aided for the day in Big A Club by Tim Welford, (wearing tie), who is developing ministries to people living in multi-family dwellings. Jeffreys heard about Big A when Welford visited Wildwood and "stirred up interest." Weekly at Gateway West

Apartments' recreation room is the club which Jeffreys plans to hold on into the school year. He says he's hoping to start an evening adult Bible study shortly. A layman from the Bissell church has agreed to lead it. "There are lots of places we could start one," says Jeffreys.

Incredulous fourth grader:

"I've never touched a Bible"

By Tim Nicholas

Last summer First Church, Plantersville, conducted a Big A Club under the trees in Oak Grove Mobile Park not far from the church. "We prayed God would send us a place," says Carolyn Weeks, a church member and teacher in the community. Several of the children were becoming faithful in Sunday School and the church wanted the program to continue.

A woman, Sandy Spaide, who attended the church, lived in the mobile home park and babysat some of the kids. She volunteered her home for

continuation of the Big A Club which prospered with up to 30 kids at the time.

"Lord, I praise your name for sending these kids, but what are we going to do with them?" Mrs. Weeks recalls praying.

No limits had been set on ages of attendees, so some up into their teens would show up to listen to the Bible studies. Younger children, seemingly starved for attention, participate and listen readily.

Many had never had Bibles in their homes. One fourth grader stood up,

when given her first Bible, "Do you mean I can have one for myself?" she asked incredulously, with the leaders just as incredulous. "I've never touched a Bible," she said. Acteens Activators from various churches help the Plantersville adults with the Club activities.

The answered prayers for adequate space came in the form of a mobile chapel, a double-wide the association bought from the convention board. It was in place in early May and now, besides the Big A Club, there is Sunday School and most recently, worship

(Continued on page 8)

Shannon pastor begins his own Big A Club

By Tim Nicholas

Robert Armstrong "just took a look into the community" and saw a need for children's Bible study.

Armstrong, pastor of First Church, Shannon, witnessed to his own 10 year old, who made a profession of faith and in turn invited other neighborhood kids to church. Armstrong, who is a member of the county missions committee, baptized six of the kids on one Sunday and asked himself, "What are we going to do with them the rest of the week?"

Tim Welford, the multi-family project director for the association, suggested Big A Club materials, which teach the Bible to kids who have had little or no exposure to it before.

So Armstrong began his own Big A Club which meets for an hour every Tuesday. Every Thursday afternoon, Armstrong invites a guest to speak to

or entertain the kids, who number about a dozen. He phoned all the association's churches asking who could come help and when. He has

(Continued on page 8)



Robert Armstrong, pastor of First Church, Shannon, shows the Big A club sign.

Thursday, July 31, 1986

MasterLife workshop is scheduled

"There are times in a person's life when a passage of scripture grips his heart and will not let go," says Gayle Alexander, pastor of the First Church, Tupelo. "I did not know why the encounter of Jesus with Peter in John 21 where Jesus said, 'feed my sheep' so gripped my heart. I lived with that two or three months. I enrolled in a MasterLife workshop and in the second day I knew why. I was looking for something very practical in discipleship and I found it. I expect MasterLife to transform my church."

A MasterLife Workshop will take place at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, Nov. 17-21. Earl Clark, minister of education at First Church, Mendenhall, and Larry Goff, pastor of Friendship Church, Ellisville, will be the leaders. Both have been involved in MasterLife workshops, have received special training, and have experience with MasterLife groups in their churches.

MasterLife Discipleship training is a sequential, developmental group-discipling process that enables one to make Christ master and to master life through practicing the basic disciplines of abiding in Christ, living in the Word, praying in faith, living in fellowship with believers, witnessing to the world, and ministering through Christ's Power under the direction of mature, practicing disciplers.

Churches cannot secure the materials until the pastor, or his representative has received this training.

A registration fee of \$82.50 is required which covers all leadership materials for the workshop. Lodging and meals are extra. A registration form is available from the Church Training Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.



Goff

Clark



Carolyn Madison reads a Bible story to Jennifer Bullock, third grader.

Devotional

Do you need a spiritual workout?

By Rossie L. Francis

Hebrews 5:11-14

My prayer is that God would grant to each and every believer a double dose of beliefism. I'm praying that the church will stop faking and motioning and move (do the Word). How often have you sat down and thought how beautiful it would be if life were this way or that way? Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you witnessed to your neighbors? Maybe you have wondered what would life be like if everybody on your job was saved. You probably have wondered what it would be like if you were obedient and witnessed to the person the Lord placed on your heart for the past two or three weeks.

Have you wondered what it would be like if you obeyed and did what the Lord wanted you to do in your church, your home, or even your personal life? You won't know until you are obedient and become a doer of the Word and not just a hearer (wonderer). Faith does come by hearing, but remember FAITH without works is dead. How long will you continue to sit and wonder, if this person got saved what they would be like? How long will you continue to sit and wonder what it could have been like if? You will never know as long as you doubt, hesitate, and keep if'n (wondering). (Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them (meaning keeping them alive, keep them in practice and use) that's who loves me and that is the person I will manifest myself to."

Are you suffering from a lack of exercising (using) your faith? Yes, you will get STIFF: sitting around talking about IF! Do as Phil. 2:12 says, "obey (practice) always," so you can get a good workout, and you will be thankful to God for what you can become (Pastor's Version). Do the Word! Yes! WORK IT OUT, and the results will be there.

Rossie L. Francis is pastor, Faith Obedience Baptist Church, Biloxi.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

Cal-line reaches goal — 60 years of teaching VBS

The Guinness Book of World Records can make a new entry. Carolyn Madison has now worked in Vacation Bible School for 60 consecutive summers. Could there be another such record? Doubtful.

WLBT-TV featured her July 25 on "Spirit of Mississippi."

Carolyn retired in 1973 after 32½ years as a children's worker in the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, first with children (birth-juniors,) and later with kindergarten-day care.

She has been a member of Parkway Church, Jackson, since 1940. Two years earlier, in 1938, she was principal for the first Vacation Bible School ever held at Parkway. (During summers while a second grade teacher at Utica and Philadelphia, she was a special worker with Sunday School or Church Training.)

The first Bible School she ever worked in was held the summer after she finished high school in Brooksville. Still a teenager, she helped with the older children. This year at Parkway she worked with third graders. It marked her 60th year of assisting in Vacation Bible School in some manner, whether teaching, coordinating, or some other task.

Since her work in the Sunday School Department took her to dozens (and maybe even hundreds) of Bible schools, she taught in every Baptist association in the state.

The smallest VBS she remembers took place at a log cabin in Walthall County, with 19 enrolled. Pews in the one-room church had no backs. The four departments picked four trees in the churchyard for their meeting places. At the close of the commencement program there were four professions of faith.

Though she kept no records of the number of conversions in Bible schools, she remembers many over the years. Usually she would give the invitation, explaining the way of salvation in words she felt the children could understand. Then the pastor would receive and counsel with those who came. One of those converts she never forgot was a 17-year-old deaf Catholic boy.

During the 40s, she rode the bus or train all over the state to teach in Bible schools, and stayed in homes of church members, sometimes not unpacking her suitcase for six weeks at the time.

Now she lives at 630 Ellis Avenue, Apt. G-1, Jackson 39209 (phone 355-2100). At Parkway, she is busy in the senior adult program and sings in their Heavenly Sunlight Choir.

Friday of every week she works as a volunteer in the pediatrics department of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Not only does she play with children and rock babies. Often she visits and prays with parents of sick children. Due to her witness at the hospital, at least three have made professions of faith.

One story she tells involves a baby who died of child abuse. The mother was selling dope. The father took the blame and went to prison. The mother's boyfriend beat the child. When the father was permitted to come to the hospital for a visit, Miss Madison explained to him the way of salvation and he said that he wanted to receive Christ.

She says, "The Lord was good to me to let me have the opportunity to work with so many boys and girls in our state. I am grateful." Now that she has met her 60-year goal, will she continue? She says, "I'm not setting a new goal but will continue to work as long as I am able."

The Record does it again!

The Baptist Record has done it again! It's always helping someone meet a need, or meeting a need for someone.

Mary Virginia Quarles, daughter of the late Chester L. Quarles, was in Clinton recently to visit her mother, Virginia. I saw her at a First Church, Clinton, WMU meeting held at Grace Lovelace's house.

She told me that the Baptist Record was a lifesaver in helping her find a Southern Baptist church when she moved from California to Warsaw, Wisconsin. She asked many individuals if there were a Southern Baptist church in Warsaw or Scofield

or in any of the neighboring towns. No one knew of one. She stopped at a Christian book store to ask her question. They didn't know.

When the first Baptist Record arrived at her new address, she opened it, saw an article headlined, "Pastor Says 100-Member Churches Are Okay," — or something to that effect. That interested her, so she read on. The dateline was Scofield, Wisconsin, and it was about the Calvary (Southern Baptist) Church of Scofield. She found the church, joined it, and now holds down the post of WMU director plus have a dozen other jobs there.

walked on the moon during 1971's Apollo 15 mission, plans to fly to Turkey in August to resume his search for the remains of Noah's Ark.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (EP) — Former astronaut James Irwin left Penrose Hospital here in late June, after treatment following a nearly fatal heart arrhythmia. Irwin, 56, who

JACKSON — Southern Baptist missionary Rodrick E. Conerly of Jackson will travel the state to challenge pastors to consider becoming foreign missionaries.

Conerly, a missionary to Peru, will meet with as many Mississippi preachers as he can from September 1986 to May 1987. He will ask them if they have ever seriously considered or prayed about an overseas ministry.

He is one of 20 furloughing missionaries serving as enlistment assistants with the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Enlistment Department.

Through participation in pastors'

gatherings and in personal meetings, the assistants will help identify pastors who could be general evangelists (church planters or developers) overseas. They will encourage the pastors to consider missionary service.

"Our greatest need overseas, year after year, is for missionary preachers who work within the national context of starting and developing new churches and working with local pastors and other Christians," said Bill Morgan, director of the board's enlistment department.

About 300 such requests for preachers come from the missionaries each year. Yet only one in four requests is filled.

"If we are to come anywhere close to meeting our Bold Mission goals in evangelism and sharing Christ's gospel with all people, we must have the preachers," Morgan said.

About 95 percent of Southern Baptist pastors stay in the United States where only 5 percent of the world's five billion people live, Morgan said. Much of the world has yet to hear the gospel which many pastors preach over and over again to the same people.

"There are literally hundreds of preachers whom God has gifted for ministry across cultural lines," Morgan said. "It is hard to believe that the Lord of the harvest who has opened so many doors for us would call so few."

"Surely God is calling many who have not yet heard. Perhaps most have never had a personal challenge to think and pray about their own involvement in foreign missions."

Conerly's furlough address is 721 E. Northside Drive, Jackson, Miss. 39206. telephone (601) 362-6209.

Senior Adult Corner

Senior adults see "Abigail Stands Fast"

The senior adults of the Baptist churches of Covington-Jefferson Davis Association had a joint meeting with a covered dish luncheon June 26 at the associational building.

A drama entitled 'Abigail Stands Fast' was presented by Jim Byrne,

Ernest Stephens, Mrs. Angie Myers, and Miss Mamie Herrin directed by Tom Mercier, minister of music at Prentiss Church.

New officers were elected: president, Mrs. Lutie T. Lott; co-president, James F. Polk; secretary, Mrs. Thelma Lee; and reporter, Mrs. Mary

Lou Holloway.

Tom Mercier with his wife as accompanist led the group in singing several songs.

Kenneth Stringer brought a devotion.

Tom Myers of Prentiss Church is associational director of senior adults.

First, Clinton Joymakers present "The Family of God"

The Joymakers, senior adult choir of the music ministry of First Church, Clinton, presented a worship service in song, "The Family of God," at their church at 7 p.m., July 20.

Similar presentations will be made

on Aug. 3 at the 11 a.m. service at Parkway Church, Natchez, and at the 6:30 p.m. service at Broadmoor Church, Baton Rouge, La.

This group, composed of 84 members ranging in age from 59 to 93,

Senior adult choirs from churches statewide participated in this year's senior adult festivals held at First Church, Grenada on May 1 and at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, on May 2. Choirs were invited to either observe or be evaluated. Awarding of certificates was based on superior, excellent or good performances, but this

year all choirs rated either superior or excellent, according to Dan Hall, director, Church Music, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Grenada festival hosted 150 participants, and there were over 500 participants at Morrison Heights Church. A combined total of 21 choirs registered.

has given testimony in song at numerous churches, both in and out of the state. The choir is under direction of Mrs. Roy Cliburn. Bill Bacon is minister of music at First, Clinton, and Bill Baker is pastor.

Sunrisers visit New Orleans

"Sunrisers" of Sunrise Church, Hattiesburg, recently made a trip to New Orleans, visiting the French Quarter and a shopping mall. Ken Davis is pastor.

Missionaries on furlough in Mississippi

The following Mississippi missionaries are now on furlough.

Ralph and Gena Calcote, Japan, 1625 Easy St., Yazoo City; Daniel and Sharon Bradley, Kenya, Box 302, Long Beach; James and Linda Barron, Ghana, c/o Mrs. John A. Rierson, 12 Frances St., Newport News, Va.; Warren and Joannah Rush, Senegal, 1044 Wolfe St., Jacksonville, Fla.; Bill and Michele Brigham, Thailand, c/o Bill Brigham, 323 North St., Yazoo

City;

James P. and Dottie Gilbert, Panama, 919 Reaves St., Jackson; Glenn and Patt Bién, Bangladesh, Rt. 2, Box 137-A, Coldwater; Paul and Margie Thibodeaux, Eastern Europe, Box 511, Oxford; John and Sarah Perkins, France, 715 E. Northside Dr., Jackson;

Harry and Frances Raley, Taiwan, 3331 Old Canton Road, Jackson; Rodrick and Caroline Conner, Peru, McLaurin, Miss.

721 E. Northside Drive, Jackson; Philip and Laura Dunaway, Brazil, Venetian Way, Hattiesburg. David and Ollie Mayhall, Ghana, arrived July 16.

Byron and Dora Harbin, missionaries to Brazil, report a change of furlough address (Rt. 6, Box 1412, Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401). He was born in Tuscaloosa County, Ala. She is the former Dora Dunkley of McLaurin, Miss.

Plantersville Big A Club

(Continued from page 6)

services. Worship is at 9 a.m., led by Plantersville pastor Rick Spencer, with Sunday School at 9:30. Then the bus takes those interested over to Plantersville church for regular services there.

"I'm seeing more than Sunday School, more than Big A," says Spencer, who notes in the church Sunday School 100 new enrollees from the 260 tallied last October.

Spencer says he would like to see some type of medical clinic work

Letters to the Editor

How to eliminate worry

Editor:

We all worry on occasion! Some problems are BIG, but most are small.

Do we really need to worry at all?

Let us analyze or think about what on occasion we worry about. As I see it, worry items can be divided into two groups: First, things we control or make decisions on, and second, things we do not control and do not make decisions on. For example, sickness in the family, loss of a job, financial need, a personal relationship with someone, etc.

In the latter group, since we do not control or make decisions on them there is no action we can take, so we need not worry since we cannot do anything about it. We can pray to God for his assistance and let God handle it. That should cover 50 percent of our

work problems!

On those matters that we do control and make decisions on we can ask God to help us make the right decisions. With God's assistance we cannot make a bad decision. So, we need NOT worry. That should eliminate the other 50 percent of our worry problems!

The Apostle Paul in I Timothy 6:8 says, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." From this statement, I assume that the Apostle Paul did not worry about any material matters.

Paul trusted God completely and did not worry. We too can trust God and be content. If we are on God's side, then our worrying days are over.

Robert S. Leigh
Jackson

Forced termination

Editor:

Several months ago I resigned as pastor of a medium size (1100 members) Baptist church in a prominent city in our state. I had served as pastor a relatively short period of time here but also as a pastor and staff member in a number of churches in a sister state. I attended our denominational seminaries (for which I am indeed grateful) and served on a number of committees and positions in denominational activities. I have to take personal responsibility for some of the events that led to my eventual resignation but am perplexed as to the other influences.

My education (M. Div. and D. Min.) offered me the best training a pastor could want. My goal as pastor was to lead our church to be a "Great Commission church" through missions and evangelism. I mention my training because, though my goals were worthy, if I do so at the expense of people, we have not been successful. We were taught not to manipulate

people but to lead them to be involved in the decision-making process. I attempted to do this.

Inspite of the methods used for us to be what God wanted, a church member took it upon himself to discredit me and my ministry no matter what the cost. He was successful.

What is it in our system that allows a man or woman to prepare for years to serve only to have everything destroyed in a few months? This isn't to imply that everyone is out to "get the pastor," but I'm afraid it happens far too often. The sad part is that instead of being a positive force for God, we end up with destroyed lives and ministries. It seems to me we would be better to accept imperfections in pastors and staff members, they are not perfect, and to work together for the kingdom's sake. God help us to quit destroying ourselves that we might serve Him more faithfully!

Name withheld
by request

Armstrong Big A Club

(Continued from page 6)

begun at the park, which rents space to the church for its trailer. "We need to get some of these doctors and dentists who are going off somewhere else," doing mission work, says Spencer.

Spencer says of Mrs. Weeks and the other volunteers at the park that "we have found the kind of person who will succeed is willing to work there despite the difficulties."

"We've got the churches," he adds, "we just need to get them excited about doing the work we need to do."

Grant awarded to MC

Patricia Hinton (left), dean of the Mississippi College School of Nursing, and Charles Martin, vice-president for Academic Affairs, look over the specifications of a \$14,000 Helene Fuld grant recently awarded to Mississippi College.

The Helene Fuld Health Trust money will be used to purchase audiovisual films and materials for the School of Nursing academic program.

"The grant is being made in recognition of the outstanding contributions to the nursing profession being made by Mississippi College in training undergraduate student nurses to render bedside care to patients," said a spokesman for Marine Midland Bank, the trustee.

The School of Nursing is accredited by the National League of Nursing and by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

for Bible study and crafts." He says the church averaged 102 on Vacation Bible School without special promotion at all.

"We didn't touch the iceberg," says Armstrong of the potential for reaching children with the gospel. "We just took an ice pick and chipped on it."

SINGAPORE — After training for four months, 10 members of the Changi Baptist Church and a pastor, Matthew Lim, began worship services in Tampines New Town, a new housing estate of about 120,000 residents in Singapore.



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Names in the News



Calvary Church, Greenville, held a commissioning service for **Nell Phillips** on July 2. She will be serving as minister of music at Libby Church, Libby, Mont. Ms. Phillips has volunteered to give a year of her time to serve in volunteer missions. Calvary Church presented her with a check for \$500 and held a reception in her honor. Pictured, left to right, are Paul Powell, minister of music, Ms. Phillips, and Tommy Snyder, pastor.



Jim Phillips, pastor of Mount Olive Church has recently joined the Air National Guard Chaplain Corps and been assigned to the 186th Tactical Reconnaissance Group located at Key Field in Meridian. Phillips is shown at right.

Phillips will enter the unit as a 1st Lt. and will assist the Installation Staff Chaplain, Chaplain (Capt) John E. Dent, Jr., in performing the mission of the chaplain's office.

Lt. Col. Therman W. Hodge, commander of the 186th Combat Support Squadron (pictured) administers the oath of office to Chaplain Phillips.

HATTIESBURG — Gary Roberson of Toomshuba is William Carey's third consecutive recipient of the Rotary Fellowship International, a scholarship which allows for one year of study abroad. This scholarship pays for all tuition, housing, meals, and travel expenses.

Carey's past winners include Randy Rawls, 1984 winner, who studied at

Canterbury University in Christchurch, New England; and Danny Barber, 1985 winner, who is studying at Queensland University in Brisbane, Australia.

Roberson plans to study chemical education at the University of York in Yorkshire, England (about 200 miles north of London).

Schooner Valley (Chickasaw): Aug. 3-8; regular services, Sunday; weekday services 7:30 p.m.; Al Gaspard, pastor, Houston First (Chickasaw), evangelist; Don Buchanan, song director; A. C. Gore, pastor.

Victory, Bassfield: August 3-8; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; weekday services, 7:30 p.m.; Troy Massey, Peach Bottom, Pa., former pastor in Mississippi, speaker; Jim Hulon, Richland, music.

Immanuel (Panola): Aug. 3-8; services, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Walter Ballard, evangelist; Pat Herron, music; Eugene Howell, pastor.

First, Stonewall: Aug. 3-8; Bob Perry, First, Waynesboro; Bill Wilkerson, First, Hendersonville, N.C.; Albert H. McMullen, pastor.

Mount Vernon, (Newton): Aug. 3-8; Danny Lanier, evangelist; John Yates, music; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Bill Hutto, pastor.

Concord (Yazoo): Aug. 3-8; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m., dinner on the ground, afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Cliff Shipp, Highland, Jackson, evangelist; B. B. Neely, music; Tommy Buskin, pastor.

Ogden, (Yazoo): Aug. 3-8; services, Aug. 3, homecoming 11 a.m. with morning services, followed by dinner on the grounds; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; services 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day. Earl Ezell, evangelist; special music provided each night; Hal Selby, pastor.

Oak Grove, Shubuta: Aug. 3-8; homecoming, Sunday, dinner served; Doug Broome, evangelist; Bobby Walker, pastor.

First, Fannin: Aug. 3-7; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Don Berry, West Palm Beach, Fla., evangelist; Don Bennett, Jackson, music; Fred Tarpley, pastor.

John Merck enters his sixth year of revival — evangelism. He pastored for 12 years at First, Stonewall, and Rocky Creek, Lucedale. In the first five years of full time evangelism, he held 220 meetings, averaging 44 a year. His address is: Rt. 2 Box 432, Easley S.C. 29640, telephone, 803-859-0880.

Phil McCarty, former professor of religion and philosophy at Mississippi College, has been named director of public affairs for the Jitney-Jungle Stores, Inc. McCarty earned his master's degree and doctorate from New Orleans Seminary.

Bonnie Sparrow, a Mississippi native, and former staffer with the Radio and Television Commission, has been named communications director for the Fort Worth public schools. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Sparrow wrote for the Jackson Daily News.

Olivia Harthcock Gonzales through the Home Mission Board, is a volunteer summer missionary at the Rio Vista Baptist Center, Phoenix, Ariz., this summer. Mrs. Gonzales is a graduate of Clarke College, and Mississippi State University. She has just completed her 32nd year as a teacher of Lacosta Elementary School, Chalmette, La.

NASHVILLE — Marlan F. Seward has joined the Sunday School Board as a growth consultant in the church training department.

A Paducah, Ky. native, Seward came to the board in July after serving 11 years as minister of education and administration at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville.

Seward holds a B.A. degree from Bowling Green (Ky.) Business University. He earned the M.R.E. degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Before becoming minister of education at Two Rivers, Seward was minister of education for six years at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, Miss.

The closed mouth catches no flies.

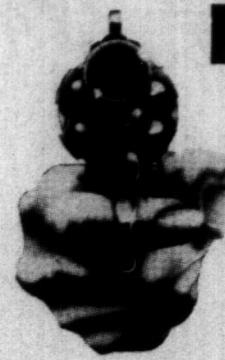
The silver lining is easier to find in the other fellow's cloud.

Revival Dates

Thursday, July 31, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Intensive care



*Drugs are just as deadly
as a loaded gun.
Don't take chances
with your life*

Friend of marijuana addict seeks advice

A friend of mine has informed that she has used marijuana for 15 years but doesn't indicate any usage of harder narcotics. This person refuses to divulge the extent of her drug involvement but shows definite signs of short-term memory impairment, moodiness, extreme defensiveness over the drug, and often speaking in sentence structures that are somewhat incoherent. Any information you could supply me that might help me better understand the physical and emotional dangers involved would be highly appreciated. Also, any suggestions as to how I might encourage this person to view the drug realistically would be appreciated.

Your letter indicates that your friend has a problem with addiction; therefore, she should seek professional help. When stringent efforts

should be put forth to get the person to treatment voluntarily, or by commitment if necessary, it is not helpful for friends, family or co-workers to attempt to play nursemaid, detective, or counselor to drug-users. An addiction center can provide the kind of assistance that is needed, whatever the drug problem. In addition to reading the information I am sending you, I encourage you to call the toll free number (1-800-962-6868) at Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center in Jackson for additional information.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with Dr. Ed Burchak of the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Staff Changes

Steve Stone of Jackson began his duties as associate pastor at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on July 14. He

was previously associate pastor and minister of education at North Fort Worth Church, Fort Worth, 1982-86. Stone was ordained to the gospel ministry at Roseland Park Church, Picayune, where he served as minister of education

and youth, 1979-82.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and has master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Stone and his wife, Cheryl, have two children, Amy and Megan.

Myles Dowdy has resigned the pastorate of Northward Church, Gulf Coast Association. He has accepted the pastorate of Heritage Church, a mission sponsored by First Church, Buford, Ga.

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Longview, Starkville: Aug. 17-22; 7:30 p.m.; evangelist, G. C. Sansing, pastor, Mayhew, (Lowndes); music, Dudley Brasher, Longview; James Hutcherson, pastor.

Montrose (Jasper): Aug. 3-8; 7:30 p.m.; Clyde Pound, pastor, Union Seminary, evangelist; James E. Pugh, Sr., pastor.

Just for the Record



Leake County Baptist Association Brotherhood donated a 1964 Dodge pick-up and an eight-year-old mare to Central Hills Retreat recently. They also donated several 22 caliber rifles for the firing range. "The Leake Association has been faithful in special projects, workdays, and other events when called upon by Dan West, manager, Central Hills Retreat," says David Satterwhite, director of missions.

Pictured, left to right (front row) is Lester Janes, back row, Joe Smith, volunteer, Mission Service Corps, Satterwhite, Marvin Armstrong, Brotherhood director, and West.



Old Union Church, Shannon, dedicated a new church sign in memory of the late Theron Collins. The sign was donated by his widow, Louise Collins. Mr. Collins was an active deacon for 25 years.



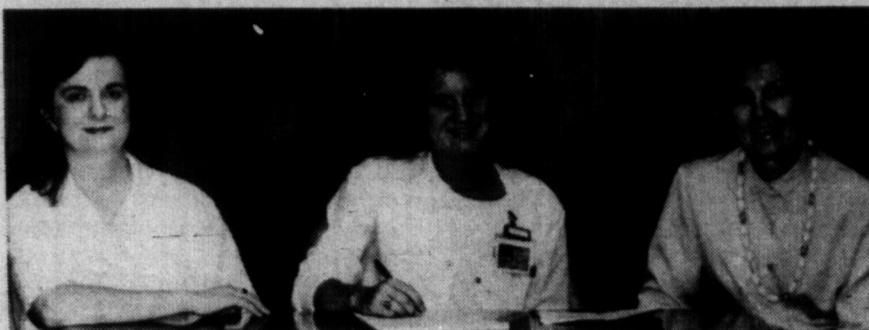
Lexie Church, Walthall County, recently held a men's cake baking contest. The cakes were judged on appearance and taste.

Winners were Jerry Conerly, first place; Major Johnson, second place; Leroy Barron, third place.

Participants are pictured, left to right, Mark Conerly, Major Johnson, Ford Martin, Emmette Kennedy, Mac Conerly, Harold Dillon, Jerry Conerly, Jimmy Holden, Leroy Barron, Earl Skinner, Ed Pogue, Charles Barron, and Porter Skinner.



Unity Church, Moselle, on June 29, eighth anniversary, held a note burning ceremony celebrating the retirement of the original note. James Taylor is pastor.



Discussing BSU activities for the upcoming year at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center are, from left, Lu Harding, assistant administrator; Denise Buckley, senior radiology student; and Kathy Bearden, director of student activities. Chester Swor will be the speaker during Religious Emphasis Week in November; Ann Davis on staff at First Church, Jackson, will lead a series of studies on prayer this fall; the BSU will sponsor a bike-a-thon to raise money for missions this fall; and Susan Horton, minister of music at Sebastopol Church, will be directing a singing group of MBMC students. The students will continue their visitation program where they see patients, get to know them, and try to help them feel more comfortable about being in the hospital.



The sixth graders of First Church, Gautier, are shown in their costumes for still life poses of Bible characters they studied during Vacation Bible School. Billy R. Williams is pastor.



Acteens of Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid, were recognized recently for their achievements for the year. Pictured, left to right, Penny Rice, queen; Ginger Smith, queen with scepter; Lisa Sturgis, queen regent; Dana Cook, Mississippi citation; Laurie Cooper, queen regent; Melissa Goad, queen with scepter; and Ronda Burke, queen. Their theme was "Reach Out And Touch." Their leader is Mrs. Diane Cook, and the pastor is Aubrey Martin.



Unity Church, Magnolia, on June 29 burned a \$25,000 note on its renovated Sunday School rooms. Also on June 29 the church ended a 5½ month fund drive to pay off its debt and prepare for another building project. They set a goal to raise \$7,500 above normal gifts; they raised \$8,600. Pictured are Smiley Honea, center, elder deacon who burned the note; David Howell, pastor, right; and Steve Flye, left, chairman of deacons.

East Union Church, Pike Association, held a dedication service June 1, for its new 32' x 60' annex. A covered-dish lunch was served.

The building consists of four classrooms, pastor's study, work room, and large meeting room. The men of the church and some from the community did all of the work. The cost of the building was just under \$25,000 and it was dedicated debt free.

Glen Williams, Pike, director of missions, led in the dedicatory prayer. Mrs. Irene Johnson brought special music with Hollis Lang, Mrs. Lucy Simmons, and Mrs. Kathryn Miller on the instruments.

The deacons served as the building committee with the pastor, Dale Wilson, as chairman.

Sunrise Church, Hattiesburg, held Vacation Bible School June 16-20, with an average attendance of 44. Ken Davis is pastor.

West Corinth Church, Corinth, will dedicate its newly renovated sanctuary, Aug. 3. The members believe that a strong mission church must have a strong solid home foundation. The needed renovation is the first step to greater involvement in missions.

"West Corinth is supporting the Bold Mission Thrust effort by setting a 1/2 percent increase each year in Planned Growth in Giving to the Cooperative Program and increased giving to the Alcorn Association over the next 15 years, that will bring their total budget giving to missions to 25 percent in addition to other mission offerings and efforts," says Alvis K. Cooper, pastor.

First Church, Jackson will host an exercise instructor workshop for churches Aug. 15-16.

Those interested in attending should contact Jim Baker, P.O. Box 1158, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 or phone (601) 355-2911.

Lisa Baker, will be leading the workshop.

The youth choir of Trinity Church, Vicksburg, recently presented a musical at Pope Church, Pope. Steve Warren is music director of Trinity Church and a former staffer at Pope Church. Al Mullan is pastor of Pope Church.

The youth of Sunrise Church, Hattiesburg, recently had a "lock-in" at Dauphin Way Church in Mobile. There were 36 people attending. Ken Davis is pastor.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The Malaysia Baptist Convention has named a full-time executive director, filling a position which has been vacant for more than 10 years. The new director is Isaac Yim, a former Baptist pastor and seminary professor in Malaysia.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Haggai delivers God's summons to rebuild temple

By Marjean Patterson
Haggai 1:1-2:23

The short book containing the preaching of Haggai tells of a time when God's people were really bogged down. The building of a second temple was their responsibility. They were not working at the task of rebuilding; they were not happy; they were not being blessed; they were downcast and discouraged.

Haggai came on the scene to preach encouragement to the Lord's people. The prophet led them to re-arrange their priorities, placing the Lord's work in a pre-eminent position.

1. A call to rebuild the temple (1:1-11)
Haggai apparently had been among the first 40,000 Jews to be returned from Persian bondage to their homes. Led by Zerubbabel and Joshua, the former exiles began to rebuild Jerusalem. The foundation of the temple was


Patterson laid right away but subsequently work was delayed for fifteen years.

2. The people's response (1:12-15a)
Governor Zerubbabel and High Priest Joshua reacted as the responsible leaders they were and led the people to resume work on the temple. With the word of the Lord ringing in their ears, the people in Jerusalem put their minds and backs into the project.

About seven weeks later, discouragement

began to surface. Some of the older people in Jerusalem remembered the magnificent temple which had been destroyed. The second temple was not going to be as pretentious and grand as had been the first temple. Somehow these older people were thinking of the glory of the first temple, but had forgotten the source of the glory.

God told the people through Haggai that the reason for their present financial problems was that they were not putting first things first. They needed to get on with the business of rebuilding the house of God.

The function of Haggai was to be a goad for God. In plain, direct words he inspired them to begin once more to build the temple.

3. A question of purity (2:10-14)
Haggai was instructed to ask the priests for a ruling on the relative contagiousness of holiness and uncleanness. The priests replied that holiness was not contagious to the touch but that uncleanness was contagious to the touch. Somehow they had become unclean and,

therefore, whatever they offered to the Lord was unclean.

4. Promise of blessings for faithful obedience (2:15-19)

So long as the people of Jerusalem had neglected the temple, they had nothing to show for their efforts except short yields and crop failures. Now, however, Haggai was happy to announce that empty barns would soon be filled with grain and barren vineyards and orchards would again yield their crops. The Lord's promise was "from this day on I will bless you."

5. Promise to exalt Zerubbabel (2:20-23)

Zerubbabel, a descendant of the house of David, led the way in rebuilding the temple. The book of Haggai closes with words from God concerning Zerubbabel. The Lord would take possession of him and he would be known as the servant of God.

Conclusion

The message of Haggai to us today is a reminder of the necessity of ordering our priorities. To what is my life really committed?

Marjean Patterson is executive director, Mississippi WMU.

God's promise of renewal: New covenant in hearts of men

By Robert E. Self
Ezekiel 36:22-32


Most of us have asked ourselves questions about how God wants us to live. Even the man who believes that there is a God but who finds himself far away from him almost always has some sense of spiritual failure. I'm reminded of a fellow hunter some time ago who did a great many things wrong. When confronted for a moment, he stated, "I believe in God; I'm not a pagan. I just don't act like I believe." Many can subscribe to that

Self statement.

I. Honor

The people of Israel found themselves in a similar position in our text. The thing that they held about God and the way that they conducted their lives were miles apart. And, since Jehovah had been associated with these people in the mind of a nation, it reflected badly on God. His name (all that he is) was ridiculed among the pagans. His reputation was suffering.

We get a glimpse of the kind of God that he is at this point. Instead of bringing additional judgment upon the people, God unfolded a plan

to restore the people and redeem his name. His action is motivated out of a desire to be consistent in bringing honor to himself. (verse 22). There is a point of profaning his name beyond which he will not allow men to go.

God expects us to live within the parameters of righteousness and love. We must all confess that we do not always accomplish this in our lives. Not so long ago, a sweet, dedicated Christian said, "This may surprise you, but I'm not perfect." All of us would agree to that statement for ourselves. When we wander away from the call of God on our lives, we sin and thus become less than he wants us to be.

I'm concerned about that today. Never before have we been called upon to fight the battle of addiction to sin in its deadly forms quite like today. America is coming apart morally and spiritually because as individual persons, we are coming apart in our spiritual relationships. When that is so, it brings dishonor to God.

II. Hope
God never dealt with Israel in terms of what they deserved, but always out of his grace and love. The hope extended to the people is that God did not bring total judgment, but forgiveness and restoration. Verse 25 declares his plan is to cleanse the people of their filthiness.

The hope of all of us centers in the truth that God does not act in the same way that we act. He is not vindictive, but redemptive. A friend used to say, "I'm not God, but if I were I'd be taking names and counting sins."

UNIFORM

Jeremiah 31:31-34 speaks of our hope in terms of a new covenant written in the hearts of men. God ultimately wrote that covenant in blood at the cross and by faith it comes to work in each of us. We get a new heart. Someone has said that the only way to really change a man is to change his heart. The Bible tells us that this is exactly what happens when we accept Jesus Christ. The entire gospel centers upon a complete inner change.

III. Help

As we get a new heart, we also get a new spirit. The writer says that God would put a new spirit within to enable his people to walk in obedience to him. There is always a way back to God because he is always standing by us.

Israel had become the most rebellious of the nations and God still called the people back. Not only did he call them back, but he promised to bless them in such a way that the people

would know that he loved them.

What a great thought for us! Regardless of how far away a person has gone, God still calls. And the potential of forgiveness and a new life are ever present. Perhaps it's no greater miracle for God to save a seasoned, veteran, dirty sinner than for him to save a child. For us, the rejoicing ought to be that he is in the business of saving both.

The primary purpose of God in Jesus Christ is to bring him into right relationship to God by faith. When Jesus died on the cross, he paid for all our sins. What a joy to know that God loves us that much. Regardless of the extent of our rebellion, he paid that price at the cross and there is hope.

Sometimes that rebellion stems from never having met Jesus as Lord of one's life. The Bible teaches us that by faith, he will forgive you and totally change your life. In other cases, we Christians sometimes fail to allow him to constantly be enthroned as Lord. The way back is the same, by faith and surrender.

The writer of the theme song, "Bridge Over The River Kwai," gave a testimony that I have never forgotten. He said, "Since I've been a Christian, I'm happier now when I'm not happy than I was happy before when I was happy." Robert Self is pastor, First, Brookhaven.

The peacemakers . . . "shall be called the children of God"

By James W. Street
Matthew 5:9


The late William Barclay points out that the New Testament is the book of peace. The word, peace, is repeated 88 times and is to be found in every book. No stronger emphasis is made anywhere on peace and peace making than in this seventh beatitude.

Here Jesus reverses the popular materialistic interpretation of the Messiah as one who would restore the glory of Israel in terms of a national military power that would exert the influence on the area. In effect, he corrects them by saying, "You don't understand, peacemakers are the blessed ones. My kingdom is not to be equated with common conceptions of power in this world. You are absolutely wrong in your outlook."

The essence of this peace in the New Testament is reconciliation with God. The day and

age of Christ's physical days on earth were fraught with animosity and exclusivity. That day is not the only one to suffer the ravages of individual alienation from God and the resultant estrangement between individuals, races, and nations. From that deepest of all chasms, the separation of the individual from God, spring all other conflicts.

One simply cannot be a peacemaker until he/she has come to know God and his peace within oneself. That is basic and from that first step all other steps lead. Like, blessed is the effort to help another make peace with God. For real peace in ourselves, with others and amongst nations is that which has God as its foundation.

When that initial step is completed, one needs to heed the admonition to be peacemakers, not just peace lovers. Apparently then and now makers of peace were and are few and far between. Why? Because it is less difficult to drift along and ignore or fan the fires of division than

it is to wage war against division. Jesus made peace, and calls us to be peacemakers. He fashioned it out of the life experiences of the people he touched and he expects us to do the same in our day.

LIFE AND WORK

The peace which Jesus made and makes available to us was accomplished at a cost that was very dear. The price of peace between God and man which makes possible all other peace is the very life of Jesus. For us, the cost is minimal in contrast to his, but it does involve a high price for us. We must decide to die to self and sin so that we can live in him. After that, the cost includes our vulnerability to him, to subsequent barriers being broken down, and a willingness to make peace with others.

The work we must do as peacemakers? The hardest job of all! It is the task of reconcilia-

tion between individuals and groups. In order for peace to be made, for reconciliation to work, the love of God must be paramount. There can be no true peace until individuals, groups, and nations are reconciled with him.

But there is much more involved in peacemaking. It is also a work of prevention. If poverty grinds one into a state where one considers crime and folly in order to extricate himself and his family, then the peacemaker must address the causes of this dire poverty. If there is difficulty that makes a person intolerable, the peacemaker strikes at the root of the problem. Sometimes, a peacemaker seems to be a trouble-maker because he challenges our indolence, lethargy, and lack of concern.

So, what's in it for us? A lot! "We shall be called sons of God." Our heavenly Father is a peacemaker, and as we follow him in that undertaking we become more like him. To be a peacemaker is to reflect God's own character. No one is closer to God than the person who spends life making peace.

James Street is pastor, First, Cleveland.

Baptist Record

Killing didn't end with Amin in Uganda; Baptists endure

By Art Toalston

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP) — Missionary Jim Rice is too mild-mannered to boast about persevering in a land where more than one million people have died at the hands of their own rulers.

"I've often wondered, 'Why am I here? What talent or talents have I got?'" Rice admits. He concedes he does "an adequate job" as chairman of Southern Baptist missionaries in Uganda, but "It may boil down to availability. I may not be so talented, but at least I'm here."

Missionary Rick Goodgame, a physician, recalls everyone hoped "the worst was over" when dictator Idi Amin fell from power in 1979. Religious freedom was restored, but otherwise, "It got worse."

Six times since, the reins of power have been grabbed through military coups, a suspicious election, or a war replete with artillery and machine gun barrages. The forces of Milton Obote, in power from 1980 to 1985, may have equaled Amin's in the number of people they killed — an estimated half million. The mayhem reflected longstanding tribal animosities in Uganda. Many soldiers had no qualms about murder, rape, breaking into homes, or demanding payments at roadblocks throughout the country. "Sin had free rein," Rice recounts.

However, Ugandans believe they have cause for some celebration this year. Yoweri Museveni, whose National Resistance Army came to power in January after several years of warfare, has pledged there will be

no "thieves," "murderers" or any "remnant of the bad governments of the past" in his regime.

In Baptist work, some strides forward occurred during Uganda's post-Amin turmoil, but there also has been decline or stagnation. One association of 18 churches no longer exists; guerrilla warfare made refugees of churchgoers and their neighbors. About 20 churches closed in a region where Karamajong warriors often murdered cattle owners and stole their herds.

The Baptist Union of Uganda reports 185 churches. Most are small and weak. The nation's strife made it impossible for Baptist leaders to travel to assist churches, says union General Secretary John Ekudu, a botany teacher at Makerere University in Kampala. Correspondence wasn't even an option because the mails were sporadic and unreliable.

Southern Baptist missionaries have faced times of peril. Five years ago, a drunken soldier shot and killed a milkman in front of Larry and Sharon Pumpelly's home. A vehicle Linda Rice was driving was stolen by four men with machine guns in broad daylight. The Rices, of Christiansburg, Va., again weathered a vehicle robbery in 1982, as did the Pumpellys. The Pumpellys are from Newark and Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, respectively.

Two missionary homes in rural Uganda were destroyed and two were ransacked during the past year's political-tribal upheaval. The missionary families were elsewhere each time.

Nevertheless, "I'd like for people to understand that we believe we're in the Lord's will here," Linda Rice says. Southern Baptists in the United States should "keep praying for us, not tell us that we're crazy." About 20 Southern Baptist missionaries are assigned to Uganda.

When Museveni's forces invaded Kampala in January, the part of town where the Rices and Goodgames live became a battleground. The Rices spent two days huddling in the hallway of their house, with 2-year-old daughter Kristen and 11 other missionaries and children. Rick and Susan Goodgame and their five children spent much of the time barricaded in their kitchen.

A recording from the Rices' hallway at the time sounds like a war movie. "The gunfire and artillery were deafening at times," Goodgame says, but residential homes were not targeted.

Rumors of war abounded last summer, so Goodgame, senior lecturer in Makerere University's School of Medicine at Mulago Hospital, called his family together. "I'm going to go to the hospital," he said. "Mom is going to take care of the things she always does. You're going to go to school. We're going to work with the church. When the war comes, we're going to get to our house, lock the gate, block the doors, get on the floor, and read books and play games for a few days. Then the war will be over and we'll get back to work."

Goodgame is from Clearwater, Fla.,



William Waddle purchases a local fruit called natoke.



William and Nadine Waddle at their home in Jinja, Uganda.

"Uganda kept coming back, staring us in the face"

For William Waddle, a new church development adviser in Jinja, Uganda was "on the bottom of the list" when he and his wife, Nadine, were exploring missions opportunities. The Mississippi couple had job descriptions from an array of countries and, after reviewing them numerous times and praying, "Uganda just kept coming back, staring us in the face," said Waddle, who was appointed while pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, Miss.

The couple's "initiation" to Uganda in early January came as they drove into the country from Kenya, passing through a half dozen roadblocks manned by rude soldiers wanting bribes.

Then, in Mbale, they were told a man had been shot to death down the street the night before. Moving

on to Kampala, they spent 18 days with the Pumpellys as warfare in and around the city reached its peak. Skirmishes took place within 1,000 feet of the residence.

Their first few days in Uganda, Mrs. Waddle admits, were depressing. And they were scary at times, Waddle says. Later, the Waddles came to be thankful for entering the country at the time, because, as Mrs. Waddle puts it, "I probably would have been afraid to come if I had heard about it in the States."

Now, both use the word, "exciting," to describe their work in Jinja. In their first six weeks at the Nile Baptist Church, they witnessed 30 professions of faith. "It's not because I've gone out and knocked on doors," Waddle says. "It's because people of the church have gone out and found these people."

and his wife is from Houston, Texas. In going to Uganda six years ago, they had to decide, "What are we willing to risk for the sake of the gospel? God in his sovereignty can handle any circumstance — our own deaths, our children's deaths, loss of property, illness. You have to leave yourself open to all those possibilities."

On several fronts, Baptist work has progressed. Kampala Baptist Church, the union's largest congregation, opened its new building in May.

New work is beginning in Uganda's most prominent indigenous language, Luganda.

In student work, the Pumpellys launched a fellowship for college graduates last November, and average attendance has reached 50.

Six hundred oxen are being purchased in northern Uganda with Southern Baptist hunger relief funds. Groups of four families, Christian and non-Christian, are sharing pairs of oxen and paying into a fund for other community projects.

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